A

Diſcouery of the vnnaturall and traiterous Conſpiracie *of Scottiſh Papiſts, againſt God,* his Church, their natiue Countrie, the Kings Majeſties perſon and eſtate.

Set downe, as it was confeſſed and ſubſcribed by M. *George Ker*, then remaining in priſon, and *Dauid Grahame* of Fentrie, iuſtly executed for his treaſon in *Edinburgh*.

Wherevnto are annexed, certaine intercepted Letters, vvritten by ſundry of that faction to the ſame purpoſe.

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1603.

TO THE READER.

MAnie and dangerous points (good Reader) of vnnaturall & treasonable practises of Scottish Papists, or (as they will needes bee styled) Catholick Romanes, against God, his Church, their natiue Countrie, and the Kings Maiesties estate and person, being discouered by Gods great & mercifull prouidence, partly by the depositions and confessions of some of the practisers themselues, & namely, Master George Ker, who for that cause was imprisoned; and Dauid Grahame of Fentrie iustly executed for the same also, in Edenburgh, the 15. of Februarie. 1592. and partly by diuers letters of sundrie of the practisers, intercepted at diuers times. It was thought good, by the kings Magestie & his honourable Counsell, that the most substantiall points of the said depositions, should bee faithfully taken out of the originals, which were deposed and confessed by the saide Master George, and Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, before the honorable persons deputed by the kings Magestie, & his highnesse counsell to that effect, & subscribed with their owne hands, and for the greater ease of the memorie of the Reader should be summarly gathered into this forme following, which other wise were scattered heere and ther in their depositions, according to the occasion of the diuers demands at diuers dyats; for the readier taking vp whereof, the times of the depositiones and persons deposing, seuerally and coniunctly as the

matter craueth, ſhould bee ſet downe in marginall quotations: As alſo, that ſome of the moſt remarkable letters of the practiſers, ſhould bee ioyned heerevnto word by word, which were intercepted with Maſter George Ker, and the reſt decyphered and tranſlated as after ſhall appeare, and ſo the whole together to bee imprinted, and ſet foorth vnto the view of the world, to the glorie of Gods Mageſtie (the onely reuealer of theſe ſecrets) to the comfort and edification of his Church, and the perpetuall detection and ſhame of the vnnaturall enemie. All which things are ſo faithfully done in this volume following, that no man how impudent ſoeuer hee bee, can iuſtly challenge it with any falſefieng, forgeing, or changeing one thing for another, to the wreſting of the originall depoſitions in any the leaſt ſubſtantiall part thereof, as by conferring this extract with the firſt records, which are in the clarks hands, moſt euidently ſhall appeare, if any liſt to looke vpon them. Thou art therefore (good Reader) greatly to conſider the goodnes of our God in this caſe. ſo watchfull ouer his Church, for the good & ſafetie therof, by diſcouering ſuch deepe & dangerous practiſes of the deadly enemie, euen then, when as we thinking nothing leſſe, are readie to be ſurpriſed by their cloſe courſes ſo cunningly & craftely conueied, as we may well ſay with the Prophet, our ſoule is eſcaped, euen as a bird out of the ſnare of the Fowlers, &c. As alſo thou art to be wakened vp, to the earneſt conſideration of the diligence force & crueltie of our enemies (which yet is nothing abated, but more eager preſently then euer heeretofore, to atchieue their deuiliſh intent) & no waies to truſt them or be ſecure, as though they were ſleeping and minding no danger to vs, while in the meane time, ſo deepely & deadly they conſpire within & without, with ſo great force & craft againſt our

Religion,

Religions, lands, & liues, that they dare be bold in their pride to assure the Spaniard of no resistance heere to their cruell enterprise, as by their owne bragging words heereafter in their Letters euidently shall appeere: Yea, all kindly natiue Scottish men, and true louers of the Christian religion, ought spedilie & substātially to concur, to the withstāding & ouerthrowing of this our cōmon enemie, within our own bowels, whose vnnaturalnes, barbaritie & hie attēpt, can be matched with no example domesticke or forraine that wee read off. Whether we consider the cruell barbarousnes of the Spaniards to whom they haue sold their country K. and people (whereof let the monument written by one of their own Friers against the Spanish crueltie, beside experience whereuer they are masters be witnes) or whether we consider their most deceitfull dealing, couering their most bloody purposes with cloak of most tender friendship, which most closely they haue counterfit by subscriptiō to the true Religion, by hearing of the word preached, and common profession therof with vs, and participation of the Sacraments, by bandes, finally, affinities, oathes, and all attestations and lawes sacred and humane that might seeme to procure credite amongst men, and many other things to bee enlarged in time and place, as mens calling in Church and pollicie craues: Consider and consider againe (good Reader) what should bee the estate of all honest and Godly men, their wiues and daughters, the estate of the Church, common weale and Prince, yea and of the miserable wretches themselues, if their purpose to make the Spaniard our master (for no mans seruant nor fellow will that proud beast be) should take effect: O Miserie, miserie, miserie vnspeakeable, especially to themselues, if their wofull purpose succeede to their minde and far proceeded practises.

Wherefore yet againe, it is hie time and more, that all good men and louers of their natiue countrie be wakened vp to true repentance to the Lord, who ſo heauily threatneth, and in a part already ſtriketh: and to a diligent and ſubſtantiall concurring euery one according to his calling and place, both in land and burgh, to withſtand theſe deſperate attempts before they paſſe remedie, and timely to preuent the farther danger, by aſſiſting the execution of iuſtice vpon the reſt of the detected traitors without reſpect of perſons, that ſo we labouring to take euill out of Iſraell, the Lord who hath ſo notably begun the work, may bring it to an happie end, to his glory and our comfortes, through Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

A DISCO-

A DISCOVERIE OF THE VNNATVRAL AND TRAITEROVS practiſes of the Scottiſh Papiſts, againſt God, his Church, their native countrie, and the Kings Maieſties perſon and eſtate.

By the Confeſſions and depoſitions of Maiſter George Ker, and Dauid Grahame of Fentrie. It is diſcouered, That in March, 1591. Maiſter William Creichtoun (who had remained two yéres before in Spain) ſent to Maiſter Iames Gordoun, Ieſuit, vnkle to George now Earle of Huntlie, a gentleman called Maiſter William Gordoun, ſonne to the Lord of Abirzeldie with letters, to let the Catholikes héere vnderſtand, what trauell Maiſter William Creichtoun had taken with the king of Spaine ſince his comming there: And that the ſayd king had opened to him, that he had bene deceaued by Engliſhmen, and would from that time forth, embrace the aduice and way, which the ſaid Maiſter William would ſhew him, both for inuading of England, and alteration of Religion within this Realme. And for that purpoſe, the ſaid Maiſter William craued by this Gentleman, to be ſent to him ſo many blanks and procurations, as could be had of noble men heere, for the aſſurance of his traffique. The depo. of M. George Ker 3. 5. & 6. of Feb. 1592.

Vpon the ſight & receit of the which blanks, ſent with ſome other diſcréet Gentleman, hauing the Noble mens commiſſion, to be filled vp with ſuch cõditions, as ſhould be capitulat and agreed vpon, betwixt the king of Spaine, and Maiſter William The depo. of M. George Ker 3. 5. & 6. of Feb. 1592.

he depo. of
auid Graham
F Fentrie, the
3 of Feb. 1592

William Creichtoun, which ſhould haue ſeruid as pledges, & ſucrties for the ſubſcriueris part, at the landing hære of the Spaniſh Armie. It was cõcludid, that ther ſhould haue bene ſent out of Spaine, about the latter end of the ſpring in this preſent yære 1592. An Armie of thirtie thouſand men to haue landed either at Kirkcudbricht, or at ȳ mouth of Clyde, according to the oppertunitie of the wind, wher they ſhould haue intrenched, & fortified themſelues, for the aſſurance of them and their ſhippes.

he depo. of
l. George Ker
of Feb. 1592

And firſt of all, money ſhould haue bene ſent to the Catholikes hære, for raiſing of forces to ſupply the ſaid Armie: Wherof, foure or fiue thouſand ſhould haue remained within this Coũtrie, who with the fortification, & aſſiſtance of the Noble men, Catholikes, their friends, & ſuch other forces, as the Spaniſh money would raiſe, ſhould haue immediately after their landing, begun to alter their religiõ, preſently profeſt within this Realme, or at leaſt procured libertie of cõſcience, and Papiſtrie to haue bene erected hære: And the reſt of the Armie ſhould haue paſt toward England the nereſt way, from their landing to the bordour.

he Depo. of
ntrie 13. of
b. 1592.
he Depo. of
. Geo. Ker.
Feb. 1592.

Their letters ſent from Maiſter William Creichtoun, being concredit by Maiſter James Gordoun, to Maiſter Robert Abrecrumby, were ſhewen by him to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie at Abirnethie, in Aprill 1592.

ne Depo. of
ntrie. 13 of
b. 1592,

ne Depo. of
auid Graham
Fentrie, the
. of Feb. 1592

And for effectuating of this matter, it was thought moſt conuenient, that ſir Iames Cheſholme, who was then one of his Maieſties Maiſter houſhaldis, ſhould haue gone to Spain, with this Cõmiſſion, in reſpect he was otherwiſe bound, towards his vncle Maiſter William Cheſholme (called Biſhop of Dumblane) For ſir Iames had the firſt credit of this erand with the Noble men, as hé declared to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, that he had dealt with the Earles of Huntlie, and Errol, and conferred with Maiſter George Ker, anent this turne, about ȳ time of the laſt Parliament, holden in Edinburgh, in June 1592. as alſo, intercommuned againe in his owne houſe, with the ſame Maiſter George in October 1592. touching the whole heidis of this diſpatch. But ſir Iames,

not

not being able to be so soone readie, and Maister George Ker being bownit of the coûtrie, it was thought best, that ỳ same Cõmission should be giuen to him, & that he should vndertake the carrying of the said letters: And so he was imployed in that errand, the rather, because both his Cuddames were Creichtouns. THe Depo. o Fentric. 13. o Feb. 1592.

Therfore, Maister George being bound to this Iorney, and readie to make sail out of the Fairly Raid at the West sey bank, vpon the 27. of December. 1592. Then (by gods prouidẽce) the said Maister George was apprehendid in the Ile of Cumray, & with him ther was interceptid sundry missiue Letters directed to this purpose. Amongst which, there was some blancks, wherof one is subscribed.

De vostre Majestie tres humble & tresobesant seruiteur Guilhalme compte de *Anguss.*

An other blanck is subscribed.

De vostre Majestie, tres humble, & tresobesant seruiteur, Francoys compte de *Frroll.*

And their two blanks were both procured of them, by sir Iames Chesholme, in their owne lodgings in Edinburgh, at the time of the last Parliament in Iune. 1592. The depo. of M. George K 3. Feb. 1592.

An other blanck is subscribed.

Guilielmus *Angusie* Comes.

An other blanck is subscribed.

Which were both procured of them by Maister Robert Abirerumby, who was the chiefest traueller in that matter, in October. 1592. The depo. of Fentric. 13. o Feb. 1592. The Depo. o M George K 3. Feb. 1592.

An other blank is ſubſcribed.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

And one other is ſubſcribed.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

he depo. of
.George Ker
of Feb. 1592.

Which were both with the whole blanks proponed, firſt to the Eale of Huntlie, by Maiſter George Ker in Strathbogy, at his paſſing their.

he Depo. of
L. Geo. Ker.
Feb. 1592.

Which ſix ſeueral blanks before ſpecified, ſhould haue bene all filled with miſſiue Letters, by the aduiſe of Maſter William Creichtoun.

he Depo. of
entrie. 14 of
eb. 1592,

And the other two blanks, maketh out the number of eight, were both ſubſcribed in the midſt of two open thrauchis of Paper in this maner.

Guillielmus Anguſsie Comes.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

Franciſcus Errollie Comes.

Patricius Gordoun de Auchindoun Miles.

he depo. of
.G. Ker. 3.
Feb. 1592.

Which two laſt blanks, were firſt ſubſcribed by the Erle of Huntlie, and Patrike Gordoun in October. 1592. And therafter being ſent with Maiſter Robert Abircrumby, to the Erlis of Angus, and Errol, were ſubſcribed by them in the ſame month of October. 1592. And their two blanks ſhould haue ben filled vp with procuratons, and whatſoeuer ſhould haue ben thought méet by ỹ ſaid Maiſter William Creichton, for the aduancement of that which Maiſter George Ker had in direction and credit of the ſubſcribers, which credit hé receaued from the Earle of Huntlie, by the report of Maiſter Iames Gordoun, and from the Earles of Angus and Errol, by themſelues in Edinburgh, in the beginning of October. 1592.

he Depo. of
.G. Ker the
of Feb. 1592

And the ſumme of this his credit, was an aſſurance, that their Noble men ſhould raiſe a power of Horſmen, e méte ỹ Spaniſh

Spaniſh Armie at their landing, and reciprokly to aſſiſt, accompanie, & connoy them in their paſſing to England, by all the forces they could procure vpon the King of Spaines charges: And their Noble men ſubſcribers, take the burdin on them, and interponit their bands, for the concurrance of the whole Catholikes of Scotland in this cauſe, & thought it meet amongſt themſelues for the better ſecrecie; that none other ſhould be craued to binde for this errand, but they three. The Depo. of M. G. Ker. the 5 & 6. of Feb 1592.

With their eight blanks ſubſcribed, as is ſaid, ther was intercepted ſtamps in wax; of the Erle of Angus ſeale of Armes fir; of the Erle of Huntleis ſeale of Armes foure; and of the Erle of Errollis ſeale of Armes three.

Dauid Grahame of Fentrie deponed, that he met ſundrie times ſince this purpoſe was in hand, with Maiſter Robert Abircrumby, as namely, that the firſt knowledge he had of this purpoſe, was by the ſaid Maiſter Robert in Dunfermling: and therafter in the Caſtle of Striuiling, before Maiſter George Ker, his preparation to his Journay, where Maiſter Robert ſhewed him, that this Commiſſion was to be giuen to ȳ ſayd Maiſter George, to cauſ fill the blanks, with Maiſter William Creichtouns auiſe, and that he was to deliuer the ſame blanks, with the other letters to him, who was to depart and carrie with him all this meſſage. The depo. of Fentrie, 13 of Feb. 1592. The Depo. of Fentrie, the 1. of Feb. 1592.

Like as the ſaid blanks and Letters, which were procured for that errand, were all deliuered by Maiſter Iames Gordoun, and Maiſter Robert Abircrumby, to Maiſter George Ker, to be carried by him to Maiſter William Creichtoun Ieſuiſt: And to be filled vp at the diſcretion and direction of the ſaid Maiſter William, and of Maiſter James Tyrie, who was beſt acquainted with the affaires there.

FOR THE VNDERSTANDING OF THE borrowed and counterfait Names, that occurris in the Letters following, (good Reader) thou ſhalt finde them interpreted on the margent, vvhere they are pointed out by this marke, ‡ vvhich interpretations are contained in the originall depoſitions of the practiſars, and in ſome of their intercepted Letters.

A Letter dicted from an Engliſh Ieſuit, and intercepted with M. George Ker, *the* 27. *of December.* 1592.

GOod Father, the incloſed to my Lord, I pray you read, & take it as writen to your ſelfe: what I writ to him, I writ to you; what I craue of him, I craue of you; what I hope of him, I hope of you; as of my Patron & Pedagog in ſpiritualibus; as of a man, whoſe diſcretion and moderation I haue well experimented, in all caſes and at all times. If I had ſo far ouerlaſhed, and gone beſide my compaſſe, as ſome good fellowes would imegin, yet I wonder, that ſome good men, both in their owne conceits, and other meanis ſpirituall, will admit no excuſe, no ſatisfaction, no purgation: when Saint Paul to the Galathians, In moſt euident delictes ſetteth downe this rule amongſt the perfect and ſpirituall: Fratres et ſi præoccupatus fuerit homo in aliquo delicto, vos qui ſpirituales, eſtis hujuſmodi inſtruite in ſpiritu lenitatis, conſiderans teipſum, ne & tu tenteris. If I had ſpoken with you at my laſt being in Italie, as I well hoped, I had perhaps made a better concluſion of my buſineſſe there, than I did to my owne content, and all my friends ſatisfaction, which hope, for all theſe ſtormes, I will neuer giue ouer, and when I leaue by your meanes to be vnder the good habering, I will write to you of that ſubiect. The Lord Seytoun, in whoſe houſe I ſoiorn ſome

times,

times, ſalutes you. Of the affaires of the Catholikes héere, I leaue it to them to write and relate, by whoſe meanes theſe letters ſhould be conuaied. My Lord Seyton, hath an hauen of his own, which may be hereafter very commodious for our Millions. Commend me I pray you to F. Brath. Pere, &c Maiſter Dudley Iper Knight, and Iohn Thules, which vpon ſome ſudden puſhes of perſecution, made their repaire hether, are in health, & ſalute you. And maiſter Syall a Prieſt died héere lately in Edenburgh. Loue me and pray for me, I beſéech you all, ſolito. And if you ſende any into theſe partes, let them come furniſhed with as ampell faculties as you may: Let them inquire for one, M. Ionas, which will bée a token betwene vs. Our Lord bleſſe and ſend vs to méete once or we die. Seytoun this 2. of October. 1592.

Yours euer moſt aſſured.
Ioan Cecilio.

Blank on the back.

A letter directed from the Earle of Angus, all written and ſubcribed with his own hand, intercepted with M. George Ker, the 27 of December. 1592.

My moſt affectioned Commendations permitted this preſent is onely to know of your welfare and friends, and of the eſtate of matters where you remaine, and to bee a teſtimonie of my good affection towardes you, for god be praiſed if you were in this Countrie, I could do you greater pleaſure, then I was able to do before, albeit good will lacketh not at no time as you know. The preſent bearer can informe you of ſuch things as occurs with vs: for we are heere daylie ſubiect to alteration. Hée may credet him as my ſelfe, for ſo his vertues do merite. It is not néedfull I trouble you with his recommendations, ſéeing hee is to you that hee is, you know his honeſtie and good intention, and the cauſes of his parting, to whoſe ſufficiencie refering the reſt. My harty ſalutation and my, M. Geor. Ker

my bedfellowes, with all our companie yong & ould remembred vnto you and your good companie: Commits you with them to the protection of God. Edinburgh the tenth of October after our account. 1592.

Yours euer at power
Angouſs.

To M. Willia Chreichton.

Blank on the back.

A Letter directed from M. Iames Gordoun, to M. William Chreichtoun, intercepted with M. George Ker. the 27. of December. 1592.

L. George Ker

TRuſtie friend, after moſt hartie commendations, your friends that are heere, hath directed this preſent bearer to you, for full reſolution of all your affaires in this quarters, we haue delayed ouer long I grant, but he will ſhew you the cauſe of all. The nert beſt is, ye diſe all expedition in time comming, againſt the nert Sommer: otherwiſe you will leſe credit heere with your factours. If ye come, ye will find more friends nor euer ye had, but otherwiſe ye will find fewer: becauſe the nert ſommer many are bound to other countries, & will not abide on you no longer. Haſt home heere ſome word to your friends, that we may put them in good hope of you. and they will tarie the longer. The bearer is an honeſt man, & very ſufficient, ye may credit him as my ſelfe. I ſhould haue come with him my ſelfe, were it not I was perſwaded that ye would remain on our anſwere, and becauſe I got one ſtop out of Flanders. As the bearer can ſhew you, ye haue gotten all that ye deſired, therefore make haſt. The bearer is come to you on his owne charge: therefore ye muſt haue reſpect to him. The laſt bearer that ye ſent, came heere behind the hand, and hath gotten no ſatisfaction as yet, becauſe nothing could be gotten heere, & we could find no man but this, that wold paſſe on his owne charge:

elative to e Blanks.

and

and I feare, that if hée had not come on his owne expences, ye should not haue receiued ans were so sone: therefore ye should vse him the better. We loke for you hére shortly, & I would yée brought the rest of your friends with you, that are beyond sea: ‡ for if your block palleth forward, they must be also present, otherwise we must come and visite you. All other affaires of this countrie, I will commit to the bearer, who is faithfull. Your wife and your children ‡ commends them to you, and hopes to sée you shortly. If I for Sandesoun ‡ your freind receiues any siluer from the bearer, yee shall be aduertised by an other ticket, how much it is, & subscribed with both our hands. The rest I will refer to the bearer. God preserue you euer from all euill. At Dundie the 20. of Nouember. 1592.

The Spanish Armie.

The Catholik Romanes and their confederates.

M. Robert Abircrumby.

Yours most affectioned
at all his power
I. Christesoun. ‡

M Iames Gordoun.
M. William Creichtoun.

Direct on the back
To his assured Friend, George Craufurd.

A Letter directed from M. Robert Abircrumby, to M. William Creichtoun, intercepted with M. George Ker, the 27 of December. 1592.

After my due and humble salutations and offer of seruice, I grieue and lament heauely the slouth, and negligence your Marchants hath vsed in ans swering of your last suite, yée preponed to them. For assuredly if they had made ans were in due time, our wares had ben hére in due time, with our great profit and consolation. The stay and stop of the matter assuredly was lacke of expenses, that no man would of his owne charges, take the voiage in hand: Yea some craued a thousand crownes for his expenses. So the matter was nére wholie giuen ouer & almost cleane forgot, vntill it pleased God of his diuine prouidence to stirre vp this bearer, to take the turne in hand

hand on his owne expencis: As he has bene euer bent in that cause, not onely to spend his goods, but also the thing that is moze deare to him, that is, his life: therefoze I thinke hee should bee the moze acceptable, as also foz the affinitie of blod, foz both his guddames was Creichtones: And as foz wit and abilitie, of treating of their affaires, he is not inferiour to none of your Marchants which ye desired, as ye will perseue by experience God willing. And albeit that he of his couragious liberalitie & zeal to the cause, hath tane the matter in hand on his own charges, yet all your friends in these quarters, thinks it very reasonable, that all should be refounded to him again, Cum Vsura, with promotion, till any other accident should fall out, foz the weill and furtherance of this cause, &c. But nowe I will say one wozd of him, & so come to some other purpose of our owne.

The hyperbolical and ridiculous commendation of M. Geor. Ker.

If I had one thousand tongues, with as many mouthes, with Ciceros eloquence, I cannot be wozthie inough in commendation of this Gentleman to you & all your companie: As I shall let you vnderstand god willing, if euer we shall chance to méete face foz face. And therfoze whensoeuer ye may pzeuent him with any benefit either by your selfe oz any other. Abide not while he craue it of you: foz he is the wozst asker in his owne cause, that euer ye conuersit with. Sed nunc ad alia. If ye be richt remembzed, at your departing out of this, yée gaue Maister James Makcartnay an pzocuratozy, to intromet with Maister Alexander Homes little leuing, he hath here in East Lowthiane, the which he pleded and obtained in law, and toke vp yérely rents thereof to his owne behoofe, & giues vs none of it. In this meane time, there fals out such commers touching that land, that we are able to loose the hail wair first. The said maister Alexanders néirest friendes and aires, hath in Judgement pzoued him to bee dead, and so enters aires to him. By this the Lozd of Spot, his ouerlozd is fozfaited, and so the land wairdis, so that wée are like to léese all, if remedie be not found. Wherefoze, falling in consultation with maister Alexander King, he thought best to sell the land to him, and we to vse the siluer on a moze sure manner, of the which ye shall receiue some wzitings‡ from this bearer, the which ye will

The writs intercepted with the rest are a

wil vnderſtād better nor I. Onely I think if ſome of means be not vſed, we ſhall loſe all. & better it is to haue ſome thing then loſe all. As to ỳ price ſet ye it down, for he has mētioned none as yet; but he will giue as much as any other, becauſe as he ſaies, he has ſome land ioyning to it. I pray you for an haſtie anſwere of this. I doubt not but ye haue heard how the yong men, whoſe father was ſlaine by the Lord of Ruthvenis ſlew him againe, whoſe Ladie is married to one Iames Reid. Cairnay is come in the Conſtables hands; and your Menie is prinie of it, and that by the meanes I trow, of Abraham your brother: but your Maieth is little better nor beggand. Drumkilbo is dead, and Thomas Tyrie is tutour. I pray you aduertiſe mé by what maner, Maiſter Steuin Wilſoun is comde by my Lord Leuingſtonis obligation, the which ye had of the fourtie Crownes his L. was owing you: For Maiſter Steuin has gotten away ỳ fortie crownes, rendering the Obligation which ye had: I durſt neuer make mention of the hundreth crownes from the father, and fortie crownes from the ſonne, which ye left mé power to receue: &c. My L. Leuingſtone, is departed of this world. Ye heard before, that Dauid Forreſter, had a ſonne, and now has an other borne in the Caſtell of Striueling, wher he is in ward, harely handled. Ther is but one of our Nobilitie here, which has of the K. of Spaine, a penſion well paid of twelue hundreth crowns. The which apparantly are ill beſtowed: For he nor none of his as yet, has neuer done any kinde of good in the promotion of the Kings matters: wherfore ſuch penſions were better beſtowed on others which trauailes daily & hourely, putting in hazard both their goods and liues, as this bearer has done and daply doth: & wheras, as he can ſhew you &c. Becauſe I haue no other thing to write, & haue ben long enough, I commend mé to your praiers, and you to God. At Scotland the 15. of December. 1592.

Yours at his power
Robert Sandeſoun.

Direct on the back.
To his truſtie friend, George Crauſurd.

A LETTER DIRECTED TO THE KING OF Spaine, by three Noble-men of Scotland, vvhereof, two hath ſince returned to the profeſsion and defence of the trueth, by their Athis and ſubſcriptiouns, vvherefore their names are ſuppreſſed, the third his Name expreſſed, (to vvit, the Earle of *Huntlie*,) becauſe he continues as yet in his former vvicked courſe. This Letter written by them in the name of the Catholike Noble-men of Scotland, cypherid in French, vvas intercepted in Ianuarie, 1589. lately before the tyme of the Raid of the Brig of Die, therafter was decyphered word by vvord, and tranſlatid in Scottiſh as followes.

SIR, we cannot ſufficiently expreſſe by ſpeach, the great regard we haue conceaued, being fruſtrate of the help wé haue ſo long had to ſée this yére paſt, ỹ deſired affects fall out which we attendid of your Maieſties preparations. And our diſpleaſure hath bene ſo much ỹ greater, that your Armie Nauall ſhould haue paſſed by ſo nére vs, vnuſiting vs, who expected the ſame with ſufficient forces for the peaceable recept and aſſiſting thereof, againſt all enemies, in ſuch ſort, that it ſhould haue had no reſiſtance in this Countrie, and with our ſupport ſhould haue giuen aneuch ado to England. At leaſt, if it had cummit hére to refreſh it, it had preſerued a number of Meſchels and men, which we know haue periſhed nére our Ilis, and vpon the coſt of Ireland. And had diſcouered an incredible number of Friends, in full redineſſe to haue runne the ſame fortoun with it, in ſuch ſort, as we dare well affirme, it ſhould not haue found halfe ſo many in England, for all that is ſpoken by the Engliſh Catholikes refuged there, who by emulation, or rather by any vnchriſtian enimie ertennatis oner farre our meanis to aide you, to magnifie their owne onely, and make themſelues to be eſtéemid able to doe all, to aduance themſelues thereby, in credit

with

with your maiestie, & such as are about you: but the experience of this yéar past, hath sufficiently testified, they haue not shown themselues in such number to assist your forces as we haue done. And therfore your Maiestie, as most wise, as ye are, shall if it please you, make such account of the one, as ye neglect not the other, and so serue you with them both, to the end ye pretend, without hazarding your forces for the particular of the one or the other. We remit to the declaration of some of your own subiects that hath ben héere, the commodious and aduantages of landing in these parts, where the expenses bestowed vpon the equippage of a Galliasse, shall bring more fruit to your seruice, then ye may haue of ten vpon the Sea. And wée may assure your Maiestie, that hauing once six thousand men héere of your owne with money, ye may lift here forces of this Countrie, as frélie as in Spaine, who will serue you no lesse faithfully then your owne naturall subiects. And albeit wée cannot without blame of presumption, giue your Maiestie aduice in your affaires there: alwaies in that, that may cõcern your seruice héere, we may speak more frélie, as being vpon the place, and knowing by ordinary experience many things vnknowne to any of yours that are not héere. The ouer late arriuall of your armie in our waters, toke from it ỹ commoditie, to rest it selfe in such safetie, as it might haue done comming sooner, by reason of the great winds that are ordinarie héere in haruest as also lack of Pilots experimented vpon the coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, appéres to haue bred great harme to the said Armie, wherevnto we could haue remedied concerning Scotland, to haue sent Pilots from this if it had liked your Maiestie to haue serued your self with them. Likewise (saving better aduise) it sœmes to vs altogether vnprofitable to fetch the Armie by sea, if it may be eschewed for many causes: And amongst others, because such as shall haue fighten by sea, will be vnable, being wearie to fight again by land against new forces: So the best shall be, to shift by one way or other, for sparing of your Men and victuals, and so the English forces staying vpon the sea vnfoughten, shall bée disapointed, & shal not come in time, to assist them that shall be

Aduise to the King of Spain how to assault this Iland hereafter.

duice to the ng of Spaine ow to assalt his Ilād here- fter.

assaulted by Land. After, sending héere a part of your forces, before the other which should goe the right way to England, & that secretly by ẏ back of Ireland: Your Maiestie should compell ẏ enemie to deuide their forces, & it may be, should cause them send ẏ greatest part héere, which yée might make them beléeue the greatest part of your forces were arriued, at least should cause them disgarneis as much of England, & draw a great part of their forces, which would resist your landing & invasion on that coast. And we may well promise, that hauing héere sixe thousande of your men, and mony to leue others héere, we should within six houres after their arriuall be well forward within England, to approch & assist the forces which your Maiestie should cause enter there. The knight William Sempil colonel, can shew your Maiestie the whole, to whome wée remit. Also, wée haue writ before & since his depart, our many such aduises by M. Robert Bruce, & caused addresse the same to my Lord Duke of Parme, to whome your Maiestie remitted vs from ẏ beginning in their affaires. And séeing we hope your Maiestie is dewlie aduertised & informed, we will end the present, kissing most humbly your Maiesties hand. Praying God with all our affection, to grant you full accomplishment of all your holy enterprises. From Edinburgh this 24. of Januarie. 1589.

Vith 6000 en sent fr ō pain, & mo- ey to leuie a ower in Scot nd, they will six houres e far in Eng- nd.

Your Majesties most humble and affectioned
Seruitours. G. Erle *Huntlie*, & cęt.
In name of the other Lords
Catholikes in Scotland.

A Letter directed from the Erle of *Huntlie*, to the Duke of *Parme*, intercepted in *Ianuarie*. &c.

MY Lord, I haue receued from Iohn Chesholme, the letters, it pleasith your highnesse to write, ẏ 13. of Octob. full of most Christian affection to the weil of our cause: For the

the whiles, I giue your Highnesse most humble thanks. The supply of ten thousand Crowns sent to that end, is receiued by M. Robert Bruce which shall not be employed but for help of the most vrgent necessitie of the said cause, as it hath pleased your Highnesse to direct. After the departure of Colonel Semple, I haue found my selfe so busied on all hands, and pressed in such sort, by our king, that it behoueth me to yéld to the extreame difficultie of time, and subscribe with his Maiestie, not with my heart, the confession of their Faith: or otherwise, I had bene forced immediately to haue departed the countrie, or to haue taken the fields for resisting his forces, and such as hée might haue drawen out of England to his aide, which I could not haue done, specially then, when by the returning of your armie in Spain, all hope of help was taken from vs: but if on the one part I haue failed, by the apprehension of dangers that threatned my ruine, I shall on the other part endeuor my selfe to amend my fault (whereof I repent mée with all my heart) by some effect, tending to the weil & aduancement of the cause of God, who hath put me in such credit with his Magestie, that since my comming to court, he hath broken his former guards, & caused me to establish others about his person of my men, by the meanes of whom & their captaines, who are also mine, I may euer be Maister of his person: And your support being arriued, & spoile the Heretickes of his authoritie, to fortifie and assure our enterprises: whereupon I beséech your Highnesse to send me your aduise, & to assure your selfe of my vnchangeable affections in my former resolutions, albeit the outward actions be forced to conforme themselues sometimes to necessitie of our occasions, as M. Robert Bruce will more amplie write to your highnesse, to whom I remit me farther. Praying God, after I haue most humbly kist your Highnesse hand, to giue you accomplishment of your holie enterprises. From Edinburgh the 24. of Januarie. 1592.

Supply of 10000. crownes from the D. of Parme.

He dissemble his Religion for feare and pollicie.

He hath established guard about the kin at his owne will to be ma ster of his per son when occasion shall offer.

Your Highnesse most humble and affectioned Seruitour,
G. Earle of *Huntlie*.

A Letter from the Earle of Errol, to the Duke of Parma, intercepted in Ianuarie, &c.

MY Lord, ſince God of late by the cléare light of his holie Catholike faith, hath chaſed from my vnderſtanding the darkneſſe of ignorance & error, wherein I haue ben héeretofore nouriſhed: I haue bene as ſone perſwaded in acknowledging of ſo great an effect of his diuine grace towards mée, that I am chiefely obliged to procure, ſince I knew the enterpriſes of his Maieſtie Catholike, & your Highneſſe tends principally to that end, as alſo to the aduancement of ſome ciuill cauſe which hath very great affinitie, and coniúction with ours héere. That I muſt teſtifie by the preſent, the affection that I haue to the well of the one & the other, hauing euer before my conuerſion bene one of the number of your friends and ſeruitours for the reſpect of the laſt, to the which, the firſt of Religion, which is the greateſt and moſt important that is in the world, being ioyned thereto I am alſo become altogether yours: which I beſéech moſt humbly your Highneſſe cauſe be ſignified to his Maieſtie Catholike, & to promiſe him in my behalfe, that hée hath not in this Countrie a more affectioned ſeruant then I, neither yet your Highneſſe, as ye ſhall vnderſtand more amply of my intention in perticular, by him by whome your Highneſſe ſhall receiue this preſent. To whom after I haue moſt humbly kiſt your hand, I beſéech the creator, to giue you the accomplíſhment of your holy deſires. From Edinburgh, this 24 of Ianuarie. 1589.

Your Highneſſe moſt humble and
moſt affectioned Seruitour
Francis Earle of Erroll.

A Letter from Robert Bruce, to Monſieur Franciſce Aguire Eſpaignell, &c. intercepted in Ianuarie, 1589 written in French, and tranſlated as followeth.

MOnſieur de Aguirre, I haue receiued your Letter, dated the ninth of Nouember, written from Antwerp, wherby I was glad to vnderſtand of your arriual there & health, and that ye haue guided your ſelfe ſo wiſely in execution of all that I committed to you. Your Maſter who at my requeſt hath giuen you entertainement, hath giuen mée the like teſtimonie of your behauiour, and hath promiſed me by his Letters, to haue you in the fauourable commendation I deſired, and to imploy you in good occaſions. If he ſend you againe into theſe parts, bée landed néere to Seytoun, where I pray you enter ſecretly, and there you ſhall bée kept, whils I may come & find you, &c.

The reſt of this Letter being ſet downe in obſcure termes, is to bee ſeene in the originall.

A Letter from Robert Bruce, to the Duke of Parme, intercepted in Ianuarie. 1589. Lately before the Roade of the bridge of Die: written in French, and therefore tranſlated and ſet downe as followeth.

MY Lord, Monſieur Cheſholme, arriued in this countrie fiue daies after his departing from thence, and with requiſit diligence, come to the Erle of Huntlie in his owne houſe in Dunfermeling, where hauing preſented to him your Highneſſe Letters, of the 13. of October, hée declared amply to him the

the credit giuen him in charge, conforme to the tenour of the Letters from your highnes: wherein they perceiued your hienesse great humanitie & affection, to the aduancement of the glory of God in this countrie, with others consolations most conuenient, to moderate the dolour & displeasure conceiued by the harts of the Catholikes, by reason of the succes of your Armie, against their hope and expectation. Also, some dais thereafter, as the commoditie offered to me to receiue the mony, the said Chesholme delinered to me sir thousand, two hundreth, threescore twelue Crownes of the sun, & three thousand seauen hundreth Spanish Pistolets: And likewise hath caried himselfe in all his actions since very wisely, and as became a man of God. Chiefely then, when vpon the suspition conceiued of his so sodain returning, the king sent to take him, I shal behaue my selfe by the grace of God, in the keping and distribution of the money last sent, and of that which rest yet of the first somme, according to your highnesse prescription, & as I ought to answere to God in conscience, and to your Highnesse in credit, & to the whole world in the reputation of an honest man: And shal manage it in such sort, that by ỹ grace of God, ther shall be fruit made therof, pleasing to your highnesse. It is true, that I find, (as al others would do, that wold take such a charge here) my selfe foulded in great difficulties: For on the one part, I am in great danger of the Hereticks, and of them of the faction of England, by reason of the open profession that I make of the Catholike Religion, and of the suspition: that the last hath of my secret practises and dealing against them: On the other part, I haue much ado to moderate the appetite that some catholike lords hath, to haue the money presently, for the hope which they giue of some pretended occasions, that will neuer fall out as they promise. The Earle of Huntlie, made instance to haue the third part of the somme which was sent hether, as soone as it was deliuered to me: but he hath not though, nor shall not hereafter except vpon good tokens. I haue apaid him in the meane time, with inexpugnable reasons, wherof in the end he was cõtented. I beseech your highnes, by the first letter it shal please you

10000 Crowns receiued from the D. of Parme, by Bruce, to be employed for the King of Spaines seruice in Scotland.

to

to write in these parts, to the Catholike Lords, to remove an error from thée, who hath written their in name of the remanent, that moues them to thinke, by reason they were the first that made offer of their seruice to the King Catholike, that all the money that comes heere, should be parted in thée, & Immediately after the arriuall thereof deliuered to them, without giuing part to others, which beside them are in great number to the King Catholikes seruice, and yours, and also deliberate to hazard after their power for the aduancement of this cause, as they are, of whom the others will not depend in any sort, in the accepting of the meanes that comes from your liberalitie, but acknowledge them as comming directly from your Highnesse, to whom onely they will be bound and obleist, and not to the other thée. Of the which, the Earle of Mortoun, hath hitherto contented himselfe with reason: As also the Earle of Huntlie, hath neuer shewen himselfe subiect to money, but since he hath ben inducted by the third, to wit, my Lord Claud hammiltoun his vnckle, who is somewhat couetous of goods, & thought vnder such pretext to make his profit. The said Earle of Huntlie, is constrained to remain at Court, he is fallen frō his constancie in his outward profession of the Catholike Religion, partly, for hauing lost all esperance of your support before the returning of the saide Chesholme, because of his long stay there, partly by the perswasion of some pollitikes, partly to eschew the perills imminent to all them that cals themselues Catholikes, partly to kéepe himselfe in the fauour of the king, who pressed him greatly to subscribe the Confession of the Heretickes, and to league with England. But for all this, his hart is no wise alienate from our cause: for he hath the hart euer good, albeit he haue not such vigor to perseuere, & execute such, as is requisite in so great an enterprise: but they may help those defects, putting beside him a man of credit, resolute to assist him, as we haue aduised to do, since the Baron of Fentrie is put in ward by the King, in the towne of Dundie: So that hee dare not goe out of the portes thereof, vnder the paine of a great summe, while the occasion may be offered to depart the countrie, within the time limited. And I

by the Kings Commandement, am discharged to come nére the said Earle: because they haue attributed to the said Lord of Fenerie and me, his constancie in the Catholike Religion, and his absence from court against the Kings will: His warding hath somewhat hindered our course, and permits mee not to moue him, as it hath pleased you to command mee, & as I desire to dispence the money continually with me: so that for supplying of the default of him, I haue associat to the same end, a very honest man, & very wise called Father William Creichton Iesuist, who was kept some yéres in the towne of Lundon, after he was taken vpon the Sea, comming toward vs from France. Likewise I shall help my selfe by the prudence of Sir Iames Chesholme, eldest brother to the said Iohn, who brought the money from your highnes: For he is a man confident, wise, and on our part, & very little suspected In the mean time, the one part of the money, is in the principall house of my Lord Leuingston, a very Catholike Lord, the other hére in Edenburgh, in a very sure place, to help as it shall néde the Lords Catholikes, who will come very sone hether to resist the deseines of them of the faction of England, who in the same time, are purposed to remaine at Court, with forces to rule all things according to their fantasie. As for the like summe or greater, which your Highnesse promised should be sent hether: It were good in all euents, it were very sone sent, secretly to help the necessitie that may fall out, and to cause things incline to our side, when they are in ballance, as there is great apparance they will bee, by the occasion aforesaid: And incase that necessitie requires no distribution, the said summe shal be kept, and reserued to better occasions, or while the arriuall of your forces in this Ile. Ther is suspition, as also argumēts, probable inough, that Thomas Tyrie, who hath brought hére your highnesse Letters to our king, hath not behaued himselfe according to his dutie: For he hath accommodat himselfe in his behaviour, more after the affection of our chancellar (who is of the faction of England, and abuses the credit hee hath with the king) nor according to the Instructions giuen him there. He hath not presented nor made mention to the king of Colonell

t is meant he Spanish orces should rriue in this land.

nell Sempils Letter, whereof I haue caused the copie to be gi-
uen to his Maiestie by the Earle Bouthwell, as if it had béne
sent to him within a letter of the said Colonels to himselfe,
which he receiued frō Thomas Tyrie at his arriuall, who hath
reported to the said Chancelor all that Seigneur don Bernardi-
on spake to him in Paris to the disaduantage of the said chan-
cellar. Also hee hath reported to the king, that my L. Bishop
of Dumblane, being returned there, spake to your highnesse, &
to others many things, to the great preiudice of his highnes:
And it is beléeued also, that hée is the cause of the suspition
which is conceued of ỹ comming of the said Iohn Chesholme,
newly to the said Bishop. Howeuer it bee, the other reportes
aforesaid, which he hath made, hath not serued to conciliat, but
to alienate the affection of the King to the Chancelor, & ma-
ny other Heretickes, from the said Seigneur don Bernardion,
the said Bishop, and Catholikes héere, that hath had to doe
with them. As for me, albeit I speak not willingly to the dis-
aduantage of any whatsoeuer, chiefely of them whom I
haue recommended, as I did the said Thomas Tyrie, to the
said Don Bernardino, yet I will preferre the light of the truth
to men, and would not in the concealing thereof, bring preiu-
dice to publike weale, nor to the fidelitie that we owe one to
another and specially that we owe all to the king of Spaine, &
your highnesse, to whom I am presently seruant particularly
addicted by the obligation of fiue hundreth crownes of fee,
and fourtie for monthly entertainment, which it hath pleased
your highnes, to giue me freely in name of the king of Spain,
not being required on my part, nor other thing for my parti-
cular to this present: by reason whereof I am the more bound
to giue your highnesse most humble thanks & to endeauor my
selfe to deserue by my most humble and faithfull seruices, as
well the said entertainment as the recompense it hath pleased
your highnesse to promise me of your grace & fauour. The said
gift of your liberalitie, came to me in good time, séeing by
reason of the danger of my person, it behoued me to augment
my ordinary traine for my greater suretie which I was not
able longer to haue borne out without help. For from all the

They compt our King amongst the heretikes.

Lords of Scotland, I haue not detained but a part onely of ỳ money, which I spent trauelling, for the good of this cause in Spaine with his Maiestie Catholik, & with your highnesse in the low countries. As for the 400. Crowns, imployed for the deliuerance of Colonel Sempill out of prison, I haue put it in compt with the remnant which I did burst of ỳ first summe, according as it has pleased your highnesse to commaund me. The Erle of Mortoun to whome I haue giuen consolation by writ in Prescoun, hath instantly prayed mé also by writ, to remember his most affectioned seruice to your highnesse. Finding himselfe greatly honoured by the care it pleasid you to haue of him. By ỳ grace of God, he is no more in danger of his life by way of iustice; It not being possible to his enemies to prone against him any thing which they had supposed in his accusatiõs: As also the kings affection not so far alienat from him, as it hath ben héretofore: And incase they would noy him, or ỳ it were presétly requisit for the good of our cause to deliuer him, we haue euer meanes to get him out of Prison, & abides not in the meane time, but the Kings will toward his libertie, onely to avoid all pursuit that they would make, if we deliuered him extraordinarily. When they offred him in the Kings name his libertie, if he would subscribe the Confession of the heretickes faith, he answered, he would not do it for the Kings crowne, nor for a hundred thousand liues, if he had them to lose, and hath offered to confound the Ministries by publike disputatiõ I shall solicit the lords his friends to procure of the King, his libertie very soone: For he imports more the good of our cause, nor any of the rest, by reason of his forces which are néere England, and the principall towne of Scotland, and the ordinarie residence of our King. As also hé is the Lord the most resolute, constant, and of greatest execution of any of the Catholikes. It is no small meruaile considering the meanes the heretickes hath to harme vs, and their worldly wit so far passing ours, and their euill will and intention against vs that wee subsist. Trewlie, we cannot but attribute the effect therof to God, who (then when the certain newes of the returning of the Armie of Spain by the back of

Ireland,

Ireland, were diſperſed through this countrie, & the Heretikes of the faction of England triumphed, and the conſtancie in the outward profeſſion of the Earle of Huntlie, (and others was brought) cauſed the Earle of Angus to die, who was chiefe of the Engliſh faction, & the ſelfe ſame time ended ſome diſcention amongſt the heretikes, by reaſon of ſome offices, that ſome pretended to vſurpe aboue others at Court, and by the inſtant prayers and holy perſwaſions of two fathers Ieſuiſts, conuerted to our holy faith, two Hereticke Earles of the firſt of authoritie and power amongſt them, the one whereof is called the Earle of Erroll, conſtable of Scotland, conuerted by father Edmond Hay. The other called the Earle of Craufurde, conuerted by the ſaid father William Chreichton. They are both able and wiſe young Lords, and moſt deſirous to aduance the Catholike faith, and your enterpriſes in this Ile, which they are deliberate to teſtifie to his Maieſtie Catholike, and your Highneſſe by their own letters, which by the grace of god, I ſhal ſend by the firſt commoditie. In the meane time, they haue required me to make you offer of their moſt humble and moſt affectioned ſeruice, promiſing to follow what ſomeeuer the ſaid Ieſuiſts and I ſhall thinke good to be done, for the conuerſation of the Catholikes, & to diſpoſe and facilitat the execution of your enterpriſes here, which they may doe more eaſelie, nor they that are knowen to be Catholickes, whoſe actions are euer ſuſpitious to the heretickes for their Religion, wherof the two Earles hath not yet made outward profeſſiõ: but in that as in the reſt, they ſubmit themſelues to your wil, & to that we find moſt expedient. The ſaid Fathers of that companie, makes great fruit in Scotland, and ſo ſone as one Lord or other perſon of importance is conuerted by them, they diſpoſe and incline in the very meane time their affection to the ſeruice of the King of Spain, & your Highnes as a thing inſeperable conioyned wᵗʰ the aduancement of the true Religion in this countrie. If I had commandement of your Highneſſe, I would giue thē ſome litle Almons in your name to help them or any others, whereof foure are alſo Ieſuiſts, & theother foure are ſeminarie Prieſts of Pontawmouſſone

The Ieſuiſts and Prieſts c great hurt in Scotland.

in Lorane, which are all the Ecclesiastickes, that produce so great spirituall fruit in Scotland, and brings to you great augmentation of your friends and seruants here. After the parting of Colonell Sempill from this, the Lords sent Letters with the said father Chreichton & other Gentlemen, after the armie of Spain, to cause thē land in this countrie, but they had taken the way to Spain few daies before their arriuall at the Iles, wher they refreshed themselues: so that it was not possible for them to attend on it. They of this countrie, that are of the faction of England, were in a merualous feare, during the incertitude of the landing of the said Armie, & confesses plainly, if they had landed here, they had ben all bitterly wrakked. The Earle Boithwell, who is Admirall of Scotland, & as zealous a Lord as any is in the countrie, albeit he make profession of the new Religion, yet is he very desirous to assist you against England, hauing leuied and trained all this Sommer, (vnder pretence to go toward the Iles) some troupes of men of war, which together with his forces ordinaries should haue ioyned with yours if they had come hether. He suffers himself to be peaceably guided by me, notwithstanding the diuersitie of our religion, & hath oftentimes said, that if the Catholikes would giue him sure tie to possesse after the restitution of the Catholiks religion, two Abbaies, which he hath that he should euen presently be altogether one of ours. He intends to send the Colonell Halkerston, to accompanie certaine Captaines and Gentlemen of Spain, & almost foure hundreth souldiers, all saif from the Naufrage in our Iles. And because they are in great necessitie, he is purposed to furnish them with Ships, victuals & other things necessarie, to testifie therby to the King of Spain, the affection he has to doe him most humble and affectioned seruice: And if we think it good, has offered himselfe to goe out of the Countrie, and to goe offer himselfe to your Highnes, in ŷ low Countries, & by your aduise thereafter, doe ŷ like to his Mairstie Catholike in Spain. But hereupon we shal aduise vpon ŷ most expedient: If we may alwaies be assured of him, he will be as profitable for the weill of our cause, as any Lord in Scotland: For he has great

dependance about this towne, which is the principal of Scotland, as also, vpon the fronterris of England. He has offered to maintaine and defend mée against all that would attempt against mé. We haue chosen for euery catholike Lord, a gentleman of the wisest & faithfull Catholikes, & beloued of their friends, to serue them of a Counsail, & to conuene at all occassions, to resolue the most expedient that may concerne the weill of our cause, according to the will & intention of their Lords, which hath bound themselues, to approue & execute their resolutions, & no waies to contrarie the same: And by that meanes, we hope to procéd with greater safetie & effect, than we haue done héretofore. Alwaies they shall know nothing of our intelligences there, nor our finall intentions, but according to the exigence of the affaires shalbe in hand, & that superficially, and without discouering our selues ouer farre. Your Highnesse shall vnderstand by ý particular letters of the Lords, ý which rests to be said to you by their présétis: By reason wherof, I will make an end, most humbly kissing your Highnesse hands: And pray to God to giue you all the good hope & felicitie yé desire. From Edinburgh, the 24. of Ianuarie. 1589.

Your Highnesse most humble and
most affectioned seruitour,
Robert Bruce.